- For the balance 15 OSVs, ONGC has invited Global tender with improved bidding conditions to bring in professionally competent and financially sound bidders.
- To improve overall health and performance of the aging fleet, ONGC has undertaken major repairs/revamping through different O&M operators, shipyards and SCI.
- Seaforth Maritime, a Halliburton Group Company, engaged to study Marine Logistics Support Services has submitted its report. ONGC is seized of various suggestions of the Consultant pertaining to communication, management, deployment of OSVs and cost control for further improvement of the system.

Black-marketing of kerosene

1336. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that black marketing of kerosene meant for PDS generate black-money to the tune of Rs. 5,000 crore annually; and

(b) whether Government have any plan to bring about price parity of diesel and kerosene?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) No such specific instance has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) With the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector effective 1st April, 2002, the pricing of diesel has been decontrolled. However, PDS kerosene is a subsidised product, the subsidy of which will be phased out in the next three to five years.

Oil and gas blocks awarded for exploration

1337. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of oil and gas blocks which have been awarded for exploration;

(b) whether there is any agency to monitor the progress of the oil and gas blocks; and